(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive plan has been formulated to double the gas production in the country in the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the present status of its implementation;

(c) whether it is a fact that detailed block-by-block analysis has been carried out to identify the areas with huge potential and the oil and gas major would be advised to carry out their drilling operations there; and

(d) if so, the details of the region-wise studies carried out so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per Tenth Plan, natural gas production in the country is projected to increase from about 31.6 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) in the first year (2002-03) of Tenth plan to about 37.6 BCM in the terminal year (2006-07) of theTenth Plan, *i.e.* an increase of about 19%. However, as a result of major gas discoveries made by various companies recently, the actual production of gas may increase further.

(c) and (d) For the areas under exploration by National Oil Companies and Private/Joint Venture Companies under Production Sharing Regime, work programme commitments are given by the companies in their successful bids, which are based on the assessment and appraisal by the bidders of the prospectivity of the block as modified by results of further surveys and discoveries.

Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) prepares data packages based on existing data gathered by National Oil Companies and pre-exploratory surveys by the DGH, to attract Exploration and Production Companies for bidding under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Exploration of gas and oil in Barmer (Rajasthan)

715. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas and oil reserves have struck during exploration to the Barmer District in Rajasthan recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Hydrocarbons have been discovered recently by M/s Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd., at prospect 'E' in block RJ-ON-90/1 situated in Barmer district of Rajasthan. During initial testing, the well produced at the rate of 200 barrel of oil and also 0.2 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day of associated gas. The initial inplace reserves have been estimated by the operator to be of the order of 21 Million Metric Tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas.

Exploration of oil by ONGC in Karnataka

716. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation had undertaken survey in Karnataka for oil exploration;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of these surveys;

(c) whether ONGC has identified areas on the offshore side in Karnataka for oil exploration; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to take up oil exploration in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a), (b) and (d) Except for Bhima-Kaladgi basin which falls in North-North-Western part of the State of Karnataka with very poor perceived hydrocarbon potential; the remaining part of the State comprises hard rocks and is not considered to be conducive from the point of view of hydrocarbon generation and accumulation. Thus, no exploration for hydrocarbons has been carried out so far and nor are there any plans to do so by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in the State of Karnataka.

(c) In the deep water area with hydrocarbon potential, off the coast of Karnataka, ONGC holds one block on nomination basis wherein it carried out 4,926 Line Kilometer (LK) of Two Dimensional (2-D) seismic survey and drilled one well, which proved to be devoid of hydrocarbons. In